

**LLANFYLLIN**

**Rural District Council**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE

**YEAR 1961**



1961

Chairman: J. T. Thomas, J.P.

Parish:  
Carreghofa  
Guilsfield (Without)

Members:  
R. W. Lewis  
J. T. Jones, J.P., J. T. Thomas,  
Ll. Stafford Jones

Garthbeibio  
Hirnant  
Llandrinio  
Llandysilio  
Llanerfyl  
Llanfair Caereinion  
Llanfechain  
Llanfihangel  
Llangadfan  
Llangyniew  
Llangynog  
Llanrhaeadr (Mont.  
Llansantffraid (Pool)  
Llansantffraid (Deytheur)  
Llanwddyn  
Meifod  
Pennant

Richard Lewis  
D. E. Roberts  
J. S. Evans  
F. R. Thomas  
E. H. Mills  
I. R. Roberts, D. J. Jones, R. P. Jones  
Rev. D. J. C. Jones  
J. F. Jones  
Mrs. G. M. Humphreys  
T. P. Hughes  
Thomas Jones, G. J. Jones  
Miss Hilda Jones  
T. M. Edwards  
Glyn Owen  
T. O. Rickett  
R. N. Jones, E. E. Chapman  
G. J. Owen, J.P.

Clerk: Glyn Jones

**CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES  
COMMITTEE:**

I. R. ROBERTS

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:**

ELINOR M. GREVILLE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:**

LL. O. EVANS, M.A.P.H.I., Cert R.S.H. (Meat and Other Foods)

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:**

GEORGE E. WOODS, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.H.  
(Meat and Other Foods)

E. FRANCIS ROBERTS, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.H.  
(Meat and Other Foods)

## To the Chairman and Members of the Llanfyllin Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1961.

Generally, the statistics of the area were most favourable and except for a decline in the population, there are no adverse comments to be made. To counteract this decline, there has been a rise in the Birth Rate a high rate even as compared with the rate for the county and the country as a whole. There were no stillbirths, and there was a fall in the Illegitimacy Rate and Infant Mortality Rate; in addition, as in many previous years, there was a non-existent Maternal Mortality Rate. The infant mortality rate for the whole country was the lowest since 1948, but the rate for the Llanfyllin Rural District was even lower. The Neo-natal and Perinatal Mortality Rates share in this decline, but there is further comment made on the Perinatal Mortality Rate in the body of the report, since it is considered that, generally, this factor may be reduced further.

Deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system and heart disease remained the chief causes of death; coronary heart disease accounted for 33 per cent. of all deaths from the latter. 9 per cent. of all deaths were attributable to malignant disease, and 10 per cent. of these deaths were due to cancer of the lung (compared with a figure of 36 per cent. for the whole country). But, we should not be too complacent on this account, since deaths from cancer in England and Wales increased once more in 1961. The report of the Royal College of Physicians on "Smoking and Health" should remind us that it has been proved that smoking is a cause of lung cancer and bronchitis, and may contribute to the development of coronary heart disease. The report recommends further education of the public, and especially school-children, concerning the hazards of smoking. Publicity material is being prepared, free of charge, and the Central Council for Health Education has arranged a convincing publicity campaign to be launched in the autumn of 1962.

The plight of the aged has been a cause of concern to me and to the Health Visitor, Miss Bryan, and the District Nurses this last year, but, happily, the Ministry of Health have recently put forward a scheme whereby local authorities and voluntary organisations (who have done, and are doing so much to help the needy) may co-operate further to study the needs of the "not so young." Frequently, this section of society are forced to enter institutions or hospitals because preventive steps have not been taken to tide them over minor disabilities. If aid were available at an early



stage many old people would remain in their own homes. Assistance, in the guise of "Night Sitters," "Meals-on-Wheels," and an extended "Home Help" Service would supply the answer, at least in part, to this problem. Where hospitalization has been the only answer in the past, great difficulty has been experienced in gaining their admission, but plans are going ahead to acquire accommodation in the Welshpool district for such cases; this is a welcome step, not only for the patients, but also for their relatives and friends who, at present, often have to travel some distance to visit them.

As from April, 1961, the Montgomeryshire Water Board became the Statutory Water Authority. From a study of the figures relating to the quality of the local water supplies it would appear that 53 out of a total of 83 samples of untreated supplies were unsatisfactory; of the treated supplies 55 out of a total of 62 were satisfactory. The privately owned supplies are mainly from shallow wells and examination shows that, in chief, they do not come up to the required standard. The danger to public health is obvious and further effort should be made to render safe by treatment these supplies which are under suspicion, and, ideally, to extend the mains to all properties wherever possible at the earliest opportunity.

I feel impelled to make reference here to one parish in particular, namely that of Llanfihangel, where the public water supply is dependant on private ownership, willingly shared. In times of drought extreme hardship is experienced in this particular village, and, at the time of going to press, every effort is being made to convince the Montgomeryshire Water Board of the urgent necessity to supply Llanfihangel with an adequate and permanent water supply. In 1961, in the Llanfyllin Rural District, the population served by the mains was greater than in 1960, but even so it was only 47.4 per cent.

Sewerage schemes have been provided in various villages in the district and one is now in the process of construction, for instance, in Meifod. This is gratifying, but it is hoped that these schemes will ultimately be extended to more outlying areas, thus replacing the primitive, insanitary "privies" with their concomitant dangers from "fly-borne" disease.

Infectious diseases during the year under review were relatively high (if only judged by the notification rate). An epidemic of measles occurred, reaching its peak in the 3rd and 4th quarters of the year. An isolated outbreak of food poisoning also caused us some concern, temporarily, but, happily this was confined to one family on a farm producing milk for sale to the community. The infection was soon brought under control and this subject is discussed in more detail in the report. In addition,

a variety of infectious diseases occurred and are considered in more detail later. Were it not for the vigilance of the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff we may have been faced with a serious outbreak of infectious diseases on more than one occasion and they are to be congratulated in that they anticipated the dangers and took immediate steps to stay the spread of infection.

I would like to draw especial attention to the services of the Mass Radiography Unit which visited the area during 1961 and carried out examinations of the local populace. Much valuable work is done by this unit in the early detection of pulmonary tuberculosis and other diseases of the chest; and I would urge the community to, at all times, avail themselves of the services thus offered.

Finally, may I express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the Council, for your kind support during the latter year and also to the clerk to the Llanfyllin Rural District Council, Mr. Glyn Jones, and his staff; the surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector, and his staff, for their invaluable assistance and co-operation at all times during the year and especially to Mr. Evans for preparing that part of the report relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ELINOR M. GREVILLE

August 7th, 1962.



SECTION "A"

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area of the District—163,477 Acres.  
Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-1961 resident  
Population—9,257.  
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books  
—3,140.  
Rateable Value—£70,780.  
Sum represented by a Penny Rate £19.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

Llanfyllin R.D. 1961—9,210  
1960—9,680  
1959—9,700

These figures show a much sharper decline during the last year than formerly. The 1961 live births were 18 more than in 1960 and stood at the figure of 155. As the number of deaths was 108, the *natural* increase in the population was 47, less than in 1960 due to the fact that there were more deaths in 1961. One must suppose that the continued decline in the population is a result of the exodus of the younger members of the community to work in the large towns.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	84	65	149
Illegitimate	2	4	6
Total	86	69	155

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (Crude) ... 16.83  
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted) 19.69  
Illegitimacy Rate—3.9 per cent. of total live births.

The Birth Rate is higher and compares favourably with the figures for the county and country as a whole. The Illegitimacy Rate has fallen since 1960.

Still Births—Nil.

In 1960 there were 2 such births and the rate for the country remains rather high.

## Infant Mortality

One infant death occurred, that of an infant (M.), aged 15 minutes, in hospital. The cause of death was "Erythroblastosis." The mother had arranged to be confined at home, but in view of a previous "stillbirth" history, she was admitted to hospital for confinement. This constitutes a "Perinatal" (immediately after-birth) and a "Neonatal" (under 1 week of age) death.

**Total Infant Mortality Rate** ..... (6.5) per 1,000 live births.  
(1960 figure: 15 per 1,000 live births)

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate 6.3 per 1,000 total legitimate live births.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate: Nil.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks): 6.5 per 1,000 live births.

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week): 6.5 per 1,000 total births.

Both the Neo-natal and Perinatal Mortality Rates were the result of the one infant death previously referred to, this being a "Perinatal Death," occurring in the first week of life. This rate was lower than in 1960. The rate (in 1961) for the whole country remained high and the Central Health Services Council, Ministry of Health, in its report (1961) stated that the same general causes are responsible for both Still Births and Neo-natal deaths. Prematurity plays a large part in this and nothing is at present known about 50 per cent. of premature labours; the commonest cause being disorders of the respiratory system, congenital malformations, and haemorrhage into the brain. The survival rate of premature infants is directly proportional to the birth weight. Obstetric and Paediatric research now aims to reduce the incidence of prematurity and promote further the care of the premature infant. The council considered that measures should be taken to integrate all aspects of hospital and home care and to further an effective system of after care wherein the family doctor, the health visitor, the obstetrician, the paediatrician and the local health authority medical officers should be co-ordinated to supervise this care over several years.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

Nil.

### DEATHS

Males .....	61
Females .....	47
Total .....	108



Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (Crude) .....	11.73
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted) .....	11.26

There figures follow, closely, those for 1960 and compare favourably with the figures for the county and country as a whole.

### COMPARATIVE RATES (1961)

	Llanfyllin R.D.	Monts.	E. & W.
Birth Rate (Adjusted) .....	19.69	15.3	17.4
Death Rate (Adjusted) .....	11.26	11.85	12.0
Maternal Mortality rate .....	Nil	Nil	—
Infant Mortality Rate .....	6.5	13.4	21.4
Neo-natal Mortality Rate .....	6.5	—	15.5
Stillbirth Rate .....	Nil	17.77	18.7
Perinatal Mortality Rate .....	6.5	—	—

When one takes into account the fact that the England and Wales Birth Rate is the highest since 1948, the Llanfyllin Rural District Rate is very satisfactory, particularly in view of the declining population.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 21.4 (England and Wales) is the lowest ever recorded in this country.

The following table shows the causes of death according to age and sex distribution.

Cause	Sex0-1 yr	20-30 yrs	40-50 yrs	50-60 yrs	60-70 yrs	70-80 yrs	80-90 yrs	90-100 yrs	Total M	Total F
Malignant neoplasm stomach .....	M					1			1	
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	M			1		1			2	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	M	1	1				1		3	
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	F				1		2		4	
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	F				4	4	2		15	1
Coronary disease	M		1	3	1	1	4		8	9
angina .....	F			1	2	2				5
Hypertension with heart disease .....	F			1	1	2				4
Other heart diseases .....	M			2	4	3	7		14	9
Other circulatory diseases .....	F				1	2	3			1
Influenza .....	F				1					1
Pneumonia .....	M				2				2	1
	F			1	1		1			4
Bronchitis .....	M					1			1	
Other diseases of the respiratory system .....	M			1					1	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea..	F				1					1
Hyperplasm of prostate .....	M					2		1	3	
Congenital malformation .....	M								1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	M	1		1	1	1	2		8	8
Motor vehicle accidents .....	F		1		1	1	2	1		
Suicide .....	M			1					1	
Total .....	M	3	1	11	14	17	12	2	61	
	F		2	9	12	13	9	2		47
Grand Totals .....	M and F	3	3	20	26	30	21	4	108	

## CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

1. **Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.**
2. **Heart Disease**—33 per cent. attributable to Coronary Disease.
3. **Malignant Disease**—9 per cent. of all deaths (cancer of the lung accounted for 10 per cent. of all deaths from cancer).

In England and Wales in 1961, 36 per cent. of all male cancer deaths were ascribed to cancer of the lung (Llanfyllin R.D. 10 per cent.). The England and Wales cancer death rate again increased in 1961 (for both sexes).

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (1946—1961)

Year	Population (Mid-year Estimate)	Birth Rate (Crude)		Death Rate (Crude)		Stillbirth Rate		Perinatal Mortality Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
1946-55 (Average)	10183	16.5	16.6	12.7	11.6	16.4	23.5	40.9	38.6	38.5	31.5
1956	9870	14.2	15.6	11.5	11.7	20.1	23.0	35.0	36.8	28.6	23.8
1957	9790	14.2	16.1	12.9	11.5	28.0	22.5	35.0	36.2	7.2	23.1
1958	9730	15.4	16.4	11.1	11.7	26.0	21.6	58.4	35.1	33.3	22.6
1959	9700	15.67	16.5	12.89	11.6	39.0	20.7		34.0	20.0	22.0
1960	9680	14.15	17.1	11.57	11.5	15.0	19.7		32.9	15.0	21.7
1961	9210	16.83	17.4	11.73	12.0	Nil	18.7	6.5		6.5	21.4

The second set of figures refers to England and Wales.

## SECTION "C"

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supplies

During the year under review the Montgomeryshire Water Board was formed and became the statutory water authority as from 1st April, 1961.

#### (i) Quality

To report upon the quality of the water supplies in this district it is necessary to distinguish between public supplies and supplies drawn from privately owned sources.

#### (a) Public Supplies operated by the Statutory Water Authority.

The results of samples of water taken from the various public supplies and examined bacteriologically during 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961 are given below. In considering the following table it should be borne in mind that more attention is given to those supplies which occasionally give unsatisfactory results than to those which consistently give good results.



## Results of Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples from Works Operated by the Statutory Water Authority.

## Untreated Supplies

	Highly	Satis.	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatis.	Total
1957		65	20	7	17	109
1958		53	13	9	22	97
1959		36	2	22	16	76
1960		37	6	10	33	86
1961		13	9	8	53	83

### Treated Supplies.

	Highly Satis.	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatis.	Total
1957	63	1	—	2	66
1958	56	3	1	4	64
1959	57	—	1	—	58
1960	55	5	2	5	67
1961	55	2	—	5	62

In addition to the 145 samples examined bacteriologically during the year, 10 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis, all of which were found satisfactory.

**(b) Private Supplies.**

Requests are frequently received for samples of privately owned supplies (mostly shallow wells) to be examined. It has not always been possible to comply with the requests received, but, nevertheless, in response to such requests, and in other cases where the Public Health Inspectors considered it advisable to do so, a total of 89 Samples of private water were bacteriologically examined during the year and gave the following results.

Number of Samples found highly satisfactory ...	15
„ „ „ „ satisfactory ...	2
„ „ „ „ suspicious ...	7
„ „ „ „ unsatisfactory ...	65
	—
	89

These results are the best indication available of the quality of the private supplies in the district. Many of the samples have been taken before protective works have been carried out at the various sources, in preparation for a grant-aided farm water scheme or the erection of a new house.

**(ii) Quantity.**

The adequacy of the supplies varies considerably between one parish and another, and in no parish is a piped supply of water available to every house. Indeed, the distribution of the houses and, in some cases, their elevation, makes it unlikely that they can be supplied from public mains in the foreseeable future. I give below a brief description of the circumstances in various localities at the end of 1961.

**(a) Parish of Llanfair Caereinion.**

This parish has the highest population of any in the rural district and contains more houses supplied by water from the public mains than any other parish. Nevertheless, less than half of the houses in the parish are within reach of watermains. Since 1954, water has been extracted from the River Banwy and an ample supply of wholesome water is assured. The problem which remains, however, is one of distribution.

**(b) Parish of Llanfechain.**

A scheme of supply for the village of Llanfechain came into operation during 1953. The source is a well in valley gravel from which, after chlorination, water is pumped to a service reservoir. There is no doubt that the works have greatly improved living conditions in the village and have made possible the erection of a fair sized housing estate and school. A number of agricultural properties are supplied and while the amount of water available is comparatively small, it is unlikely that there will be any shortage of supplies for many years within the area of the distribution system.

**(c) Parish of Llandrinio, Llandysilio, Llansantffraid Deytheur and Llansantffraid Pool.**

These parishes are supplied from a spring at Winllan, Llansantffraid, augmented by pumping water from a well at Parson's Bridge in the Parish of Llandysilio. This source is referred to in the Medical Officer of Health's report for the year 1954, which expresses the belief that the yield of the Parson's Bridge well will be sufficient to meet the demands of the area for many years. Unfortunately, later experience has shown that the well cannot be relied upon during periods of drought. It is now evident that a new source is necessary to meet the requirements of these parishes in the immediate future and I am glad to state that arrangements are being made to provide an additional supply and that the actual work of construction has commenced. During the year under review the supply was augmented by pumping from the supply to Four Crosses Creamery by arrangement with the Milk Marketing Board.



**(d) Parish of Carreghofa.**

Part of this parish is supplied with water by Oswestry R.D.C., but the distribution system is inadequate and new works of water supply are urgently needed to meet the needs of the parish as a whole, including two housing estates owned by the Council. The additional source referred to at (c) will meet the demands of this parish.

**(e) Parishes of Garthbeibio and Llangadfan.**

These parishes contain the villages of Foel and Llangadfan, both of which are supplied from a source at Foel. Further development of these villages cannot take place without endangering the adequacy of the supply. Rationing of the supply was necessary for a short period during 1961.

**(f) Parish of Llanerfyl.**

The local source supplying the village of Llanerfyl is inadequate to meet the demands made upon it. I consider that a comprehensive scheme to serve the whole of the Banwy Valley is required.

**(g) Parish of Llanfihangel.**

The hamlet of Llanfihangel is a comparatively small one of less than a dozen houses. It has no public piped supply and most of the houses are dependent upon a privately owned supply which is inadequate for the needs of the hamlet. Better provision for the hamlet is needed, but owing to the elevation of the locality, I understand that it is difficult to provide it with a supply of water at reasonable expense, but I am glad to know that a scheme for supplying the village has been approved in principle and I hope that the Water Board will be able to put it into effect at an early date.

**(h) Parish of Meifod.**

The village of Meifod is adequately supplied and the distribution was extended in 1954.

The village of Pontrobert was for many years in need of a public piped supply to replace the public and private shallow wells upon which the villagers have had to depend. During 1957 an extension of the Llanfair Caereinion distribution system was carried out which fully meets the requirements of the village and the many properties within reach of the main from Llanfair to Pontrobert.

A satisfactory supply to the village of Bwlchycibau was made available in 1957.



**(i) Parish of Pennant.**

I am glad to know that the Council have entered into an agreement with Liverpool Corporation which will safeguard the supply to the village. A connection has been made to the Vyrnwy Aqueduct from which a supply may be drawn to augment the local source.

**(j) Generally.**

Much of the district remains without a public piped supply of water and because of the sparsely populated nature of the area it will no doubt require very considerable expenditure to provide a comprehensive distribution system throughout the district. Nevertheless, steady progress is being made towards this goal and when the works now under construction and in an advanced stage of planning are in operation the district will have made substantial progress towards a comprehensive piped supply.

**(iii) Plumbo-Solvent Action.**

I would not expect any of the piped supplies controlled by the Statutory Water Authority to have a marked aggressive action on metals. In two cases, the water is passed through a contact chamber of limestone chippings to counteract any acidity in the water, and the pH value of the water extracted from the River Banwy at Llanfair is also adjusted.

**(iv) Action in respect of Contamination.**

No specific action was taken in respect of any form of contamination other than proper supervision of the various sources and the routine chlorination of supplies where necessary.

**(v) Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Mains**

The following table gives the number of dwelling houses and the estimated population supplied from Public water mains directly into the houses or by means of standpipes.

Parish.	Supply laid on to dwellings or curtilage.		Supply by Standpipe.	
	Number of Dwellings	Approx. Population	Number of Dwellings	Approx. Population

Works controlled by Statutory Water  
Authority.

Meifod .....	103	360	28	97
Llanerfyl .....	34	119	14	49
Llansantffraid Pool .....	155	543	12	42
Pennant .....	50	174	9	32
Llangynog .....	65	227	16	56
Llangadfan .....	30	105	16	56
Llanfair Caereinion .....	225	777	20	70
Llanfihangel, including Dolanog Village .....	16	56	—	—
Garthbeibio .....	3	10	1	3
Llangyniew .....	32	112	—	—
Hirnant .....	—	—	—	—
Llandysilio .....	55	192	—	—
Llandrinio .....	49	171	—	—
Llanfechain .....	90	315	—	—
Llansantffraid Deytheur ...	22	77	—	—
Guilsfield (Without) .....	22	76	—	—
Llanrhaeadr .....	61	213	3	10
Total .....	1012	3527	119	415

Works not controlled by  
Statutory Water Authority

Llanfihangel .....	3	10	—	—
Llanwddyn .....	102	367	—	—
Carreghofa .....	51	178	9	31
Hirnant .....	2	7	—	—
Llangynog .....	4	14	—	—
Llanrhaeadr .....	2	7	—	—
Llangadfan .....	1	3	—	—
	165	586	9	31
Grand Total .....	1177	4113	128	446

**Note:** The percentage of the population served by public mains in 1961 was greater than in 1960. Nevertheless, it is still only 47.4 per cent.

## Drainage and Sewerage

The need for sewerage the various villages in the District has been pointed out in previous Annual Reports of the Council's Medical Officer.

Five villages have been sewerage during the past few years.

The first was Llanrhaeadr (completed 1954), the second was Llansantffraid (completed in 1955), the third, Llanfair Caereinion (completed in 1956), the fourth, Penybontfawr (completed 1959) and the last, Llangynog, was completed in 1960. These works have greatly improved the sanitary condition of the villages and have made possible improvements to many houses in the villages, which had previously been without bathrooms and drainage systems.

Sewerage schemes are urgently required in several other villages, and I am glad to know that the Council are endeavouring to meet the need.

## Closest Accommodation

In this District closet accommodation does not vary substantially from one year to another, except when new village sewerage schemes are brought into operation. Conversions from pail closets and privies to water closets also take place when houses are improved by means of grant-aided works under the Housing Acts and the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts and a small number of premises are improved without the aid of a grant.

During the past few years, the number of pail closets and privies converted into water closets under the above schemes is as follows:—

Year	Village Sewerage Schemes	Housing Act Improvement Grants	A.E.C. Grants and others	Total
1954 .....	31	5	7	43
1955 .....	73	5	12	90
1956 .....	97	22	17	136
1957 .....	—	22	16	38
1958 .....	—	19	13	32
1959 .....	84	21	6	111
1960 .....	15	22	14	51
1961 .....	—	29	8	37
	<hr/> 300	<hr/> 145	<hr/> 93	<hr/> 538

On the basis of houses inspected during 1960, I estimate the number of pail closets and privies in the District to be 2,183.



## Public Cleansing

As from September, 1959, the Council have carried out collections of house refuse by direct labour, but have continued with certain contracts for the collection of night soil in some parishes.

At the end of 1961 all the villages and hamlets in the rural district had the benefit of a weekly removal of refuse and all properties adjacent to the roads traversed by the collection vehicle between the various villages and hamlets were also provided with a weekly service.

The cost of the scavenging service during the financial year ended March, 1961, was £3,701—an increase on the cost in previous years. The cost in the immediate future will undoubtedly be more, but despite this, I hope the Council will extend the service as widely as possible. The number of houses now serviced is about 1,741, being slightly more than half the total number of houses in the District.

## Rodent Control

The following is a summary of rodent control work during the year:—

Type of Premises	No. of Treatments
Dwelling House	105
Business Premises	26
Agricultural Premises	25
Refuse Tips	2

The total number of visits made during the year was 1,345.

During the year the Public Health Inspectors carried out the following inspections:—

Public Health	102
Water Supplies	106
Drainage	91
Complaints	17
Factories	25
Infectious Disease	18
Housing Inspections	68
Rural Housing Survey	125
Refuse Collection and Disposal	79
Food and Drugs	34
Meat Inspection	265
Caravan Sites	87
Petroleum Installations	17

As a result of the above inspections the following notices were served, with the result indicated:—

Public Health Act, 1936 ...	14	1	12
Informl. Statutory. Complied with.			

### **Shops and Offices**

It was not necessary to take any action during the year.

### **Caravan Sites**

During the year under review, 19 new site licences were issued. 15 were for sites containing 1 or 2 caravans, the other 4 licences being for larger sites, the largest eventually to accommodate 108 caravans, 9 of the individual caravans were in permanent residential use, the others used as holiday accommodation mainly during the summer months.

Seven licences issued in 1960 were still in force during 1961, 4 being for individual caravans, 2 of these caravans were in permanent residential use.

The 1960 licences were issued in December of that year. One condition of these licences was that site operators of existing sites should complete the works of improvement within 12 months of date of issue of the licence where there were only 1 or 2 caravans on the site, and within 18 months where there were more than 2 caravans. Little action could therefore be taken during the year to enforce the carrying out of improvement works.

The site licences issued during 1961 stipulated that all improvement works should be completed before sites were brought into operation. Because of this no new large site came into use during the year, but improvement schemes were submitted and agreed to for several sites within the district. The smaller sites were however satisfactory, requiring few improvements.

In all there were 111 caravans sited on licensed sites during the year.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools**

There are no swimming baths or pools in the District.

### **Eradiction of Bed Bugs**

No action was necessary during the year.

## Housing

No. of Official Representations made to the Council .....	11
No. of Undertakings received from owners not to use the premises for human habitation .....	9
No. of premises actually closed .....	8
No. of premises demolished .....	1
No. of Houses constructed in the area:	
(a) Council Houses .....	Nil
(b) Private Houses .....	10
No. of Houses improved by means of Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts, during the year ...	29

The following table shows the number of Improvement Grants awarded annually since 1951 and the total amount of such grants:—

Year	No. of Grants Awarded.	Amount of such Grants		
		£	s.	d.
1951	1	393	0	0
1952	4	926	8	0
1953	4	1179	14	4
1954	7	1994	1	1
1955	18	5794	7	0
1956	27	8726	18	0
1957	19	6659	4	9
1958	15	4986	0	0
1959	20	6576	0	0
1960	22	6247	15	0
1961	29	7663	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Total	166	£51,146	8	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>		



## SECTION "D"

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

### Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupier Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	28	20	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is Authority (excluding enforced by the Local out-workers premises).	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes.	2	—	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	—	—	—	—	—

## Outworkers

There are no outworkers in the District and therefore no statistics relating to Part VIII of the Act are included in this report.

## SECTION "E"

### Food

(1) There are in the District the following numbers of premises where food is prepared, sold or stored:—

Bakehouses .....	6
Butchers' Shops .....	10
Fried Fish and Chip Shops ...	2
General Provision Stores .....	53
Greengrocer's Shops .....	1
Cafes .....	5
Licensed Premises .....	29
Cheese Manufactory .....	1
Confectioners' Shop .....	?

(2) Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, requires the registration of all premises used for the manufacture or sale of ice cream or the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. The following numbers of premises are so registered:—

For the sale of ice cream .....	47
For the manufacture of sausages	3

(3) The number of inspections of registered food premises during the year was 12, and in addition 48 inspections were made of non-registered premises. In general the inspections disclosed satisfactory conditions.

(4) Educational activity in relation to food hygiene was confined to advice and discussion during routine inspection of food premises.

(5) Two slaughterhouses held licences during the year and meat inspection was carried out at these premises during the year.

(6) All meat found to be unfit for human consumption is dyed green. It remains in the possession of the owner and after boiling is used for animal feeding.

The following table gives details of carcasses inspected and condemned in whole or in part, during the year:—

### Carcase Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	205	—	—	1247	253
Number inspected	205	—	—	1247	253
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT					
TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	5	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	1	4
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.90 %	—	—	0.48 %	1.58 %
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	5
% of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	0.00 %	—	—	0.00 %	1.98 %
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Total Weight Condemned: 502 lb.



SECTION "F"

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

183 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year and were distributed as follows:—

Measles .....	116	
Whooping Cough .....	23	
Acute Pneumonia .....	23	
Erysipelas .....	11	
Tuberculosis .....	5	
Scarlet Fever .....	1	
Acute Encephalitis ....	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	
Food Poisoning .....	1	(1 subsequent case was detected that had not been notified since she was a carrier and had been a "missed case").
Total .....	183	

The majority of these cases were Measles, and the following table shows the age and sex distribution, most cases occurring in the third and fourth quarter of the year.

	Males				Females				Totals			
	Qtr. Yr.				Qtr. Yr.				Qtr. Yr.			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
0—1 yr.							1				1	
1—2 yrs.			1	1	1		1	1	1		2	2
2—3 yrs.			3	1							3	1
3—4 yrs			2	2			2	2			4	4
4—5 yrs.		1	5	4			2	2		1	7	6
5—9 yrs.	7	7	14	11	5	1	13	7	12	8	27	18
10—14 yrs.		1	2	2	1	3	3	3	1	4	5	5
25 & over			1				2	1			3	1
Totals	7	9	28	21	7	4	24	16	14	13	52	37

It will thus be seen that the age group 5—9 years was predominantly affected and that the epidemic reached its peak in the 3rd and 4th quarters of the year. The answer to this, obviously is that the school entrant is more exposed to the risk of infection on leaving the shelter of the home. There were no serious complications and no deaths.

### WHOOPING COUGH

	Males			Females			Total		
	Qtr.	Yr.		Qtr.	Yr.		Qtr.	Yr.	
	1	3	4	1	3	4	1	3	4
0—1 yr.						1			1
1—2 yr.						1			1
2—3 yrs.	1	2	1				1	2	1
3—4 yrs.			1						1
5—9 yrs.		3	4		1	1		4	5
10—14 yrs.			3			1			4
Age unknown	2			1			3		
Totals	3	5	9	1	1	4	4	6	13

### Pneumonia

21 cases occurred in the 45—65 years + age group and were associated in some cases with other diseases, such as influenza. The remaining 2 cases occurred in young persons between the ages of 5 and 14 years. There were 6 deaths from these causes, between the ages of 50—90 years.

### Erysipelas

11 cases occurred, of these, 10 were aged 45—64 years, and one over 65 years. All these cases were visited and where necessary, disinfection and isolation were advised and such measures as were necessary were carried out.

### Tuberculosis

Of the five cases notified, one was of non-respiratory origin. All but one were admitted to hospital for treatment and no special action was required by the Public Health Department apart from subsequent disinfection of the premises.

The remaining case was that of a child aged four years, the daughter of a schoolteacher. The latter was placed under observation and suspended from duty pending the result of investigations, which proved to be negative, and no further cases resulted.

In the preventive field, the B.C.G. vaccination of school-leavers continued in the Llanfyllin High School, where 66 pupils were tested; 52 were found to require vaccination and were subsequently successfully vaccinated.

The Mass Radiography Unit again visited Llanfyllin during the year. Mass Radiography discloses, in the country as a whole, a large number of persons with unsuspected active disease who still require treatment, and a recent report on Mass Radiography (1961) suggests that 17 per cent. of children have acquired tuberculosis infection by the age of 13 years, hence it is of the utmost importance that the public utilize the services of this unit.

### **Acute Encephalitis**

This infectious disease affected a male aged 27 years. Fortunately the contacts were unaffected and no special measures were required other than the removal of the patient to hospital, where he later made a good recovery.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia**

This occurred in a young mother aged 28 years soon after confinement. No specific cause was at first apparent, but later a history was obtained of the husband having recently been ill with (possibly) influenza, and in the absence of more definite proof it was decided that the patient had suffered from a mild dose of influenza. She made a complete recovery and the infant was unaffected.

### **Food Poisoning**

In June of 1961 I received notification from Monksmoor Hospital that a baby aged 9 months had been admitted with dysentery and that cultures of *Salmonella Typhi* Murium had been isolated from the stools. I visited the child's home, which turned out to be a milk producing farm supplying a dairy. I found that the baby's sister had manifested similar symptoms two weeks previously, but that the family doctor had not been consulted. Examination of various foods, including baby soups and ice-cream



proved negative, as also did examination of the milk and water supply. As a precautionary measure the milk was directed to a certain dairy for pasteurization temporarily and all members of the family were investigated and specimens of their stools tested at the Pathological Laboratory. As a result, the baby's sister, aged four years, was found to be harbouring the offending organism and vigorous treatment was instituted and persevered with until the results were negative.

It was too late to trace the origin of the infection, but there is no doubt that the sister was a "symptomless carrier" (by the time we saw her) and that had the baby's case not been brought to our notice sooner, many further cases may have occurred through the medium of the milk supply.

### **Poliomyelitis**

As previously, persons under 40 years of age and people at special risk were offered vaccination. Fourth injections are now being offered to all children prior to school entry, or as soon as is practicable after that date.

Consequent upon the epidemic of the disease in Kingston-upon-Hull in October (when oral vaccine was used to contain the epidemic) the numbers attending the clinics rose appreciably, and many were the requests for the oral type of vaccine, but the County Health Authority had not at that time decided to introduce this method, nevertheless, I am given to understand that, at the time of going to press, there is every likelihood that it will be used in our clinics in the near future.

Fortunately for the country, by September 30th, 1961, over 16 million people in England and Wales had been given at least two injections of vaccine, and 12½ million had been given at least three. More than eight out of every ten children under 18 years had been vaccinated, and six out of every ten persons between 18—28 years.

### **Smallpox**

In September, 1961, a suspected case of Smallpox arrived in England on a cross channel boat; a contact visited the district of North Montgomeryshire and was kept under daily supervision by me until notice was received that the suspected case was negative.

In December, as the result of the importation of a case (confirmed) to Birmingham, the district once more received a "contact." He had been vaccinated, but was kept under my personal supervision daily for several days. He did not contract the disease, but had he done so one wonders whether the local population would have been sufficiently protected by previous vaccination at that stage, to stay an epidemic such as ultimately occurred in other parts of the country. Parents attending the Welfare Clinics have always been, and still are being, advised to have their babies vaccinated against Smallpox prior to immunization against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough.









